

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Rebecca Bandt, DOB: 12/29/60, of Marshfield, Wisconsin was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to nine months in federal custody and three years of supervised release for embezzlement from Local 717 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).

Bandt had been President of Local 717 of the UFCW from 1996 until October 2004. The UFCW is an international union representing approximately 1.4 million workers in the United States and Canada in a wide range of fields including meatpacking, food processing, and footwear manufacturing. At the time of the indictment, Local 717 of the UFCW was located in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and represented approximately 118 employees of the Weinbrenner Shoe Company of Merrill, Wisconsin.

Between September 15, 2000 and continuing to in or about October 2004, Bandt engaged in a pattern of conduct in which she obtained \$14,064.73 from Local 717, to which she was not entitled, by writing herself 43 checks from the union's account. She attempted to conceal the embezzlement by entering false payee and false check amounts into Local 717's check disbursement journal. Bandt also caused Local 717 to

file false Labor and Organization Annual Reports, for each fiscal year between 2001 and 2004, by under-reporting the amount of funds she actually received from the union because of the embezzlement. Bandt was ordered to pay \$17,388.32 in restitution which represented the amount she embezzled, as alleged in the indictment, as well as relevant conduct from other monies she took.

In sentencing the defendant, the Honorable John C. Shabaz called her conduct both a serious crime and reprehensible.

The charges against Rebecca Bandt were the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Labor Management Standards. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

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